

OCA 1707-88

OCA FILE Sen McConnell
Media

27 May 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of Congressional Affairs

FROM: William M. Baker
Director, Public Affairs

SUBJECT: CIA Comments Regarding Richard J. Brenneke
Requested by Senator McConnell

1. CIA has publicly denied that Richard J. Brenneke was a CIA employee. In February 1987, after an article appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES (February 2, 1987, attached), which said that Brenneke provided the TIMES with evidence that he was employed for 13 years by the CIA, a CIA spokeswoman told James Long of THE OREGONIAN in Portland, Oregon that CIA had no record that Brenneke ever worked for the CIA. THE OREGONIAN printed the CIA reply on 12 February 1987, and CIA subsequently provided the same denial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

2. CIA policy generally is to neither confirm nor deny employment. However, THE OREGONIAN noted that Mr. Brenneke had a letter dated December 1979 signed by the CIA Director of Personnel which purportedly verified his CIA employment. CIA recognized that the individual who was said to have signed the letter was not the Director of Personnel at that time, and in fact had left the Agency years before. A search of records was then undertaken to determine whether Mr. Brenneke had been employed or associated in any capacity with the Agency. Other than a few contacts initiated by Mr. Brenneke [redacted] the Agency had no relationship with Mr. Brenneke. The Agency decided on the basis of what appeared to be a doctored letter to deny Mr. Brenneke's claimed affiliation.

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William M. Baker

21 October 1988

Weekly Report Highlights

Congress

- The DI's Office of African and Latin American Analysis (ALA) briefed Senate Intelligence Committee staffers on Kenya, Zaire, and South Africa in preparation for an upcoming trip to those countries by Senators Boren, Cohen, Warner, and Nunn.
- The new anti-drug legislation has a watered-down "drug czar" provision, so our concerns on that score have been alleviated. The "compromise czar" will not have budgetary or overwhelming programmatic authority. In addition, the bill has a provision protecting intelligence sources and methods and another requiring the czar to exercise his authorities in a manner consistent with the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947.

Media

- The Public Affairs Office (PAO) spent a fair amount of time responding to queries about the so-called "October surprise" story involving CIA imposters Richard Brenneke and Hienrich Rupp, who say they attended a Paris meeting in October 1980 at which then GOP campaign director Casey allegedly arranged a deal with the Iranians not to release the hostages until after the election. PAO reported that CIA has referred the Brenneke case to the Justice Department for action.
- ~~The Publications Review Board received two submissions for review, including an article entitled "Let's Deal For Our Hostages" by former DCI Stansfield Turner.~~

Legal

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DCI WEEKLY REPORT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Media Relations

[redacted] The principal media issues this week were arms (F-105 parts) to Iran indirectly for hostages with an alleged CIA contact serving as a middle man and the October surprise story involving CIA imposters Richard Brenneke and Hienrich Rupp who say they attended a Paris meeting on 19 October 1980 at which then GOP campaign director Casey did a deal with the Iranians not to release the hostages until after the election. [redacted]

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[redacted] Regarding the Brenneke allegations, which continue to surface linking the Vice President or Casey to a fictitious hostage deal, PAO will add, when asked, that CIA has referred the Brenneke case to the Justice Department for action.

Background briefings were arranged for Newsweek on the USSR, St. Louis Post Dispatch on Vietnam and Cambodia and the LA Times on Iran.

Executive Appearances and Invitations

The DDCI spoke at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Colloquium (AAAS) on 14 October to approximately 400-500 scientists, academicians, students and representatives from high technology defense-related industries and DOD. The AAAS has received many calls requesting copies of the DDCI's speech on "Recent Developments in the Soviet Union and Implications for US Security Policy." An audience characterized as highly interested in the subject believed the DDCI to be "forthcoming" in his remarks.

The DDCI addressed approximately 250 former intelligence officers at the 14th annual AFIO Conference on 15 October at Tyson's Corner and also read a letter from the DCI to the members of AFIO which we're informed was very well received. The audience thought the DDCI's speech covered many issues that concern the intelligence community.

D/PAO spoke to Executive Seminar SIS group at STS. It was a lively and positive session.

Public Relations Unit

[redacted] made a week-long swing through New England, 17-21 October, where he made presentations at open forums for faculty and students at Dartmouth, Middlebury, Holy Cross and Colby. He even had time to stop in Londonderry, New Hampshire, to brief students at the high school there. [redacted] briefed the World Affairs Council of Reading and Berks County, at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, on 19 October. The Executive Director of the Council expressed an interest in continuing the dialogue with a visit to Headquarters by selected members of the Council.

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Publications Review Board

This week the Publications Review Board received two submissions for review including an article entitled "Let's Deal For Our Hostages" by former DCI Stansfield Turner. Additionally, four reviews were completed this week.

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